

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00576 251237Z

15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 /051 W

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R 242020Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9670

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 0576

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MOVES AGAINST LOPEZ REGA

1. RELIABLE PERONIST SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY JAN 23 THAT THREE ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS HAD, ON JAN 20 OR 21, GONE TO SEE DEFENSE MINISTER SAVINO ON SUBJECT OF LOPEZ REGA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THIS WAS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR LATTER'S HURRIED AND UNEXPECTED RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES ON JAN 22. SOURCE NOT PRIVY TO EXACT NATURE OF CONVERSATION, BUT NOTED THAT FACT ALL THREE WENT IN TOGETHER SUGGESTED THEY NOT SINGING SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER'S PRAISES.

2. EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF REPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES. HOWEVER, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN INTERVIEW TAPED WITH TV CHANNEL 9 JAN 23 (BUT NOT AIRED), UCR'S BALBIN NOT ONLY CRITICIZED GOVT ON AAA'S BOMBING OF INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN CORDOBA (SEE SEPTTEL), INTERVENTIONS IN PROVINCES, ETC., BUT, ALSO COMPLAINED OF EXPANSION OF POWERS OF SECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY, UCR IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MILITARY DURING PAST FEW WEEKS ON LOPEZ REGA QUESTION. FACT THAT BALBIN HAS RAISED IT SUGGESTS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME COORDINATED DECISION TO DO SO AND ADDS PLAUSIBILITY TO REPORT THAT MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE ALSO TAKEN IT UP.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE MILITARY LEADERS PRESENTED ANY KIND OF ULTIMATUM-I.E.: "LOPEZ REGA GOES OR WE TAKE OVER." IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THEY SIMPLY PRESENTED LIST OF

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00576 251237Z

COMPLAINTS-SUCH AS, PERHAPS, RECENT CHANGES IN MILITARY

PERSONNEL (MOSTLY ARMY) AROUND PRESIDENT ENGINEERED BY LOPEZ REGA.

4. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CHANNEL 9 DID
NOT USE TAPED INTERVIEW. IN ORDER TO GET IT BEFORE PUBLIC,
RADICALES THEREFORE CALLED LA OPINION AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS
SUGGESTED THEY GET THE INTERVIEW FROM TV STATION AND USE IT
THEMSELVES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINT, AR, UCR, (LOPEZ REGA), (BALBIN)
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